

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UNITS ON AGING
2005 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING RESOLUTIONS**

HELP STATES HELP SENIORS

1. Strengthen the Medicare program to:

- Provide more affordable, accessible and comprehensive coverage for home care, prescription drugs, mental health services, preventive services and allow reimportation of prescription drugs

2. Reform Medicaid to:

- End the institutional bias which forces older persons out of their homes
- Expand home and community based service programs for older persons and their caregivers
- Remove barriers that inhibit consumer choice, control, autonomy and independence
- Recognize and support the growing diversity of aging America
- Provide additional federal resources to leverage increased state, local and private resources

3. Modernize the Older Americans Act to enhance the role and capacity of the aging network at the federal, state and community levels to:

- Serve as the one stop center for the state's long term care service and support system to assist older persons and adults with disabilities to assess their needs and make informed choices
- Provide expanded evidenced based prevention, disease management and health promotion programs
- Provide information, education and counseling and decision assistance to people with Medicare on federal, state and local benefits
- Assist in efforts to prevent fraud and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid program
- Support systems of advocacy and protection for older persons receiving home and community based services

- Prepare states and communities for the aging of America
4. **Support federal initiatives that provide additional services to caregivers**, including respite care, legal services, transportation, and education and training and promote family caregiving policies in the workplace
 5. **Enact federal elder justice legislation** to protect older persons from abuse, neglect and exploitation in both community and institutional settings through raising public awareness of the issues involved, funding critical services and coordinating federal, state and community responses
 6. Expand the resources available to states to **improve the quality of care and protect the rights of residents in long term care facilities** (nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other congregate residential settings) including strengthening their capacity to conduct appropriate monitoring and enforcement and provide ombudsman services
 7. **Expand housing options** for older persons, including increased federal subsidies for low-income persons, and enhance coordination of housing programs with state home and community based long term care systems
 8. **Implement federal policies** that support the **continued participation** of older persons in the nation's political, social and economic life including enhanced **volunteer opportunities**, protect the rights of mature and older workers, promote their **continued employment** and provide access to appropriate training and placement services.